





# HONITON TWINNING TOWNS

Honiton is twinned with two towns in Europe: Mezidon-Canon in Normandy, France and Gronau in the Leine district of Germany

## GRONAU IN THE LEINE DISTRICT OF GERMANY

		
<p><b>Gronau Church</b></p>	<p><b>Glockenspiel</b></p>	<p><b>Town Clock Gronau</b></p>
		
	<p><b>Town Centre, Gronau</b></p>	

## VISIT TO GRONAU

In August 2008 a group of people from Honiton visited their twin town of Gronau.

Organised by the Honiton Twinning Association, the party included the Town Mayor, Cllr Chris Tratt, and Honiton Band.

During the visit trips were organised by the twinning association of Gronau to local places of interest and on the Friday evening an official ceremony took place when officials from Gronau and Honiton signed a declaration celebrating 20 years of

partnership. During the evening Honiton Band entertained the guests, together with the Gronau Fire Brigade Band.

The visit coincided with Gronau's annual wine festival, which was much enjoyed by everyone who went. Honiton Band certainly deserved its refreshment as it played a variety of music for 2 hours in the town square during the festival.

All the visitors from Honiton stayed with families in the Gronau area and were very well looked after. Cllr Tratt commented in his speech what a wonderful town Gronau is and how well the people had looked after their visitors from Honiton. He hoped that the people of Gronau would soon be able to visit Honiton again.



**Honiton Town Crier, Dave Retter**



**Honiton Town Mayor Chris Tratt with (l) Karl Heinz Gieseler ...**



## **HONITON TWINNING ASSOCIATION VISIT TO D-DAY BEACHES.**

**On the anniversary weekend of the end of the second Second World War in Europe, a dozen Honiton twinnings were guests of counterparts in Mézidon, Normandy.**

**The twinnings as ever received warm hospitality, and enjoyed the Normandy countryside at its best. Lunch outings, picnics, and tours of the region were fitted in to a fairly short stay. A highlight of the visit was a tour of the D-day beaches, which some twinnings had not seen before. This was very much an occasion for remembering and reflection.**

**We were also entertained as guests at a series of inaugural concerts at Mezidon's new community hall. This is an impressive 3.2 million euro auditorium with flexible arrangements for all kinds of concerts and audiences. We heard a number of performances including one by a sizeable local wind orchestra.**

**This was a relatively informal, low key occasion, without the exchange of civic formalities that has taken place on some previous twinning visits. Nonetheless, it was a good opportunity to see some old friends, and make new acquaintances, while once again appreciating the special qualities of our twin town in Normandy and its local worthies.**

**We are hoping to entertain a number of twinnings from Mézidon here soon, possibly in May 2010.**